

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 31, 2021 10:00 A.M.**

Our Mission: To be an inviting, caring faith community connecting with Christ.

Tune into Facebook at 10:00 on Sunday to share this time of worship. If you can't join promptly at 10:00, the video will be available later as well.

You can access that video even if you don't have a Facebook account – just type in <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityChurchOfRichmond/>

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING SONG “Hallelujah (Your Love Makes Me Sing)”

Verse 1: **Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging;
Your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet.
Your love is a myst'ry, how You gently lift me;
When I am surrounded, Your love carries me.**

Chorus: **Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
Your love makes me sing.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
Your love makes me sing.**

Verse 2: **Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising;
All the joy that's growing deep inside of me.
Ev'ry time I see You, all Your goodness shines through.
I can feel this God song rising up in me.**

Chorus 2X

Tag: **Your love makes me sing
Your love makes me sing**

Words and music by: Brenton Brown | Brian Doerksen, © 2000 Vineyard Songs (Admin. by Vineyard Music UK) CCLI License No. 1908882

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

One: As disciples of the Lord, we gather together to worship.
As disciples of the Lord, we recognize our faults.
As disciples of the Lord, we recognize his forgiving love.
As disciples of the Lord, we bow ourselves in worship.

Let us pray:

O God of all time, we rejoice in your salvation,
to sing praises to you for all your healing gifts to us.

All: Your steadfast love is our joy, righteous God.

You have called us to faith and have given us strength to live out that faith.
You have joined us together in the life of Christ.

All: Your steadfast love is our joy, righteous God.

Your love is our joy, and so we confess to you
that you come to us but we don't recognize you;
you call but we don't follow;
you bless us but we don't thank you.

All: Forgive us and help us, o God.

One: Lord, you accept us, but we don't accept others;
you forgive us, but we don't forgive those who wrong us;
you love us, but we don't love our neighbors.

All: Forgive us and help us, o God.

One: Lord, you showed us how to live your mission, but we insist on our own;
you sat with the outcasts, the poor, the homeless, but we keep distance from them;
you suffered and died for the sake of all, but we don't give up our daily comforts.

All: Forgive us and help us, o God.

One: As disciples of the Lord, we repent and return to the ways of your steadfast love.
In the name of Jesus, hear our prayer. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

#86

Verse 1: **When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer, one purpose I declare:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

Verse 2: **New strength comes night or day when from the heart we say,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let sin and evil fear, when this sweet chant they hear:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

Verse 3: **Discordant humankind, in this your concord find,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all earth around ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

Verse 4: **Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this th' eternal song through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

#86, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, anon; Tune: Laudes Domini, 1868

WORD FOR ALL AGES with special guests – Jesus did many good, important things for lots of people in his life. He also regularly stepped away from the crowds and stopped doing those many things, so that he could be still and pray. Do you lean more toward doing or being still in your discipleship? Who is someone you know whose faith pushes them in the other direction? Take some time to pray, remembering that God works through our busy times and our stillness.

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
 though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*
Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
 he burns the shields with fire.
“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations,
 I am exalted in the earth.”
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“I Am”

Kim May & Penny Kraft

Words and music by David Crowder and Ed Cash; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535

There's no space that His love can't reach
There's no place that we can't find peace
There's no end to Amazing Grace
Take me in with your arms spread wide
Take me in like an orphan child
Never let go, never leave my side
I am
Holding on to You
I am
Holding on to You
In the middle of the storm
I am holding on
I am!
Love like this, oh my God to find!
I am overwhelmed what a joy divine!
Love like this sets our hearts on fire!
...

SCRIPTURE READING The Gospel according to Luke 6:1-16 (Common English Bible)

One Sabbath, as Jesus was going through the wheat fields, his disciples were picking the heads of wheat, rubbing them in their hands, and eating them. Some Pharisees said, “Why are you breaking the Sabbath law?”

Jesus replied, "Haven't you read what David and his companions did when they were hungry? He broke the Law by going into God's house and eating the bread of the presence, which only the priests can eat. He also gave some of the bread to his companions." Then he said to them, "The Human One is Lord of the Sabbath."

On another Sabbath, Jesus entered a synagogue to teach. A man was there whose right hand was withered. The legal experts and the Pharisees were watching him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. They were looking for a reason to bring charges against him. Jesus knew their thoughts, so he said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and stand in front of everyone." He got up and stood there. Jesus said to the legal experts and Pharisees, "Here's a question for you: Is it legal on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?" Looking around at them all, he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he did and his hand was made healthy. They were furious and began talking with each other about what to do to Jesus.

During that time, Jesus went out to the mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night long. At daybreak, he called together his disciples. He chose twelve of them whom he called apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter; his brother Andrew; James; John; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus; Simon, who was called a zealot; Judas the son of James; and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

MESSAGE Upset Expectations: How Do We Change What is Needed?

HYMN "Jesus the Christ Says 'I Am the Bread'" #48

Verse 1:

**Jesus the Christ says, I am the bread, the bread of life for the world am I.
The bread of life for the world am I, the bread of life for the world am I.
Jesus the Christ says, I am the bread, the bread of life for the world am I.**

Verse 2:

**Jesus the Christ says, I am the way, the way and the truth and the life am I.
The way and the truth and the life am I, the way and the truth and life am I.
Jesus the Christ says, I am the way, the way and the truth and the life am I.**

Verse 3:

**Jesus the Christ says, I am the light, the one true light of the world am I.
The one true light of the world am I, the one true light of the world am I.
Jesus the Christ says I am the light, the one true light of the world am I.**

Verse 4:

**Jesus the Christ says, I am the life, the resurrection and the life am I.
The resurrection and the life am I, the resurrection and the life am I.
Jesus the Christ says I am the life, the resurrection and the life am I.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SONG RESPONSE "Doxology"

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, above, you heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

OFFERING Invitation to Give – We are so thankful for the continued financial support that we have continued to receive during this time! Though we rarely see each other in person these days, our church is still: providing worship; providing Sunday school for our church kids; connecting members with each other; supporting neighbors in need, locally and further away. We believe those things are parts of God's calling for us in this place and we can do them because of steady financial support.

You may always send your check directly to the church at PO Box 246, Richmond IL, 60071.

Prayer of Dedication – You might pray as you write your check and address your envelope to the church... **You are our inspiration, O Lord. use us and our offerings and our church community to serve the kingdom you inaugurate. Make us good and faithful in all that we are and all that we do. Amen.**

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "Amen"

Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

POSTLUDE

Call to Worship, Prayer of Dedication, adapted from Spill the beans, Is 21, p. 87 and 70; Opening Prayer, adp. from Chalice Worship, #173 and #276; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535.

CHURCH NEWS

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The church leaders would like to offer households an opportunity to attend church in-person! We will remain cautious and follow all CDC and State of Illinois guidelines. These include wearing a mask while attending, maintaining social distancing, and sitting with members of your household in the assigned pew(s). We also ask everyone to bring a copy of the bulletin or access it from their phone.

We will have one household per week attend starting February 21st. We are taking ‘reservations’ now. If you would like to sign up or having any questions, please email Kelli at kellibrossart@gmail.com. Those interested will be added to the schedule on a first-come, first-served basis. You will receive an email reminder mid-week of the Sunday you are schedule to attend. The email will also include the attendance guidelines as a refresher!

We know this is not a replacement for “regular” church, but we hope this provides a chance to reconnect with our beautiful place of worship. We are heading into final stretches of this remote worship journey, and all of us look forward to the day we can fully return!

BINGO! Want to have some fun with church friends? Bingo Fellowship, **TODAY**, Jan 31, at 4:00. Judy Jooss is our intrepid planner for this event.

You’ll need: a computer or other device to access Zoom; Bingo cards – either your own or those you print at home or those you’ve asked Judy to deliver to you; Bingo markers – coins, buttons, M&Ms, Cheerios...

When it’s time, we’ll all log onto the Zoom link. Judy will be our Bingo caller; calls will be displayed on the screen also. We’ll mark our cards accordingly.

We’ll play several games with some breaks in between for chatting, and we’ll have some small prizes available for the great Bingo-ers among us.

If you print your own Bingo cards, Judy recommends printing them from:

<https://letsplaybingo.io/generator>

The link for our gathering is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86194653724?pwd=ejVPaVEvZnhPSHRxL0RIVEtkbnR5QT09>)

Or you can go to zoom.us, click “Join Meeting” and enter Meeting ID 861 9465 3724 and Security Passcode 699978.

Other questions? Contact Judy – jdjooss@gmail.com or 262-877-9301.

BLOOD DRIVE **THIS Tuesday**, February 2, 3:30-7:30 PM, at the church building.

Contact Deann Workmon (678-0011) or Carol Richardson (675-2011) to schedule your appointment. COVID protocols remain in effect for safe blood donations at this time of great need.

FEBRUARY BOOK DISCUSSION Pastor Hope has been reading Love is the Way: Holding onto Hope in Troubling Times, by Bishop Michael Curry (Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church) and if you need to find some hope in troubling times, she’d like you to join this discussion! The book is widely available for order or purchase (for about \$17-\$20), and is available as a digital read and an audio book as well. It is easy to read and uplifting. If you’d like Pastor Hope to purchase a copy for you, let her know this week.

We'll discuss on **Zoom at 4:00 on Saturday, Feb 6**. If there is interest and conditions permit, a small group of us could also meet in-person to discuss during the first week of Feb. Contact Pastor Hope if you're interested.

ONGOING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY continues Tuesday at 2PM open to everyone to read and discuss the Bible passage for the coming Sunday. Tell Pastor Hope if you want the Zoom link.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BUT ON A SATURDAY continues at 10:30 on Saturday mornings. Contact Pastor Hope or the church office for the Zoom information.

OUR PART IN THE STORY: DEVOTIONS ON SUNDAY'S TEXT

Healing on the Sabbath

Luke 6:1-16

Daily Readings

These readings span the story between this Sunday's text and next Sunday's. Read a different text each day, and consider how it relates to Sunday's lesson and to your daily experiences.

Monday: Sabbath Commandment

Exodus 20:8-11

- ❖ Why did God command the Israelites to rest on the Sabbath?
Why did Jesus break that commandment?

Tuesday: The Mountain

Exodus 19:16-25

- ❖ Many momentous encounters with God occur on a mountain. Have you had any God encounters on a mountain? Where have you encountered God?

Wednesday: Blessings and Woes

Luke 6:17-26

- ❖ Matthew's account of the Beatitudes only includes the blessings. Why do you think Luke includes the woes?

Thursday: Love for Enemies

Luke 6:27-36

- ❖ Who is your enemy? Who is your neighbor? Are they ever the same?

Friday: Judging Others

Luke 6:37-42

- ❖ What is in your eye that you must remove in order to see your neighbor's speck?

Saturday: Fruit and Foundations

Luke 6:43-49

- ❖ By what fruit will you be known?

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PRAYERS FOR JANUARY 31, 2021

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org) AND our office manager, Brandi Pletcher (office@richmonducc.org). THANKS! *We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.*

JOYS: Birthdays: Rob Rummel (Feb 2), James Brossart (Feb 5)

From Betty Waspi: To all my church friends: Thank you! Thank you! For all you cards and phone calls.. They really made my day special. Even with the pandemic, you stay in touch. I pray for safety and good health for all. Especially Pastor hope with all her efforts and love.

CONCERNS

For our nation and our elected leaders
Those living with homelessness around us
Those struggling with loneliness and sadness

Ongoing Prayers:

School teachers, staff, and administrators; school children and their parents, including college students
Those whose household relationships are strained
Those whose employment has been lost or put in jeopardy due to the pandemic
Healthcare workers, especially Cheryl Kazimier's niece and Rob Rummel's daughter-in-law
Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin
Ella Watts, Melissa Jones's mother
Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities:

Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico)
Sharon Mensing (Sterling)
June Whitney (at home)